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# A preview of January's "Forecast" section

One definition of the term, *Forecast*, is "to predict some future event or condition as a result of rational study and analysis of available pertinent data." Obviously, the most desirable forecasts are those made by individuals who are specialists and have devoted much time to the study of those areas they represent. We believe that the *Forecast '66* section in the January issue of COAL MINING & PROCESSING is comprised of such reports.

Starting off will be a review of production for 1964 and 1965 in the bituminous coal-lignite and anthracite industries, and a prediction of what to expect in 1966. This report was developed specifically for COAL MINING & PROCESSING by one of the topnotch statisticians associated with the coal industry, and we are confident that it will be as accurate in predicting 1966 production as any that may be offered.

Again Joe Moody of National Coal Policy Conference gives us a preview of what to expect in legislation affecting the coal industry that may be offered in Congress next year. This report will alert industry leaders as to where they should concentrate their efforts to either combat harmful legislation or support programs that are definitely needed for our future welfare.

John H. K. Shannahan, president of the Electric Heating Association, discusses the future of that type of energy application. This is a pertinent topic inasmuch as electric heating is tied to the use of coal by electric utilities.

One of the areas where coal is and will continue to be under attack in the immediate future is that of air pollution. For a report on the nature of this problem and what is being done to correct it, we persuaded Jim Garvey, president of Bituminous Coal Research, to discuss what his organization is doing and what we may expect from those efforts.

Ever since the Office of Coal Research was established in 1961 the efforts of that organization to develop through research new or increased uses of coal has been of major interest to our industry. A COAL MINING & PROCESSING staff-developed report describes current research activities and contracts that will lead to immediate future programs.

Finally, Harry N. Cook, managing director of National Waterways Conference, presents the case for inland waterways, a vital transportation means as far as coal is concerned. Pending Federal legislation could affect waterway transportation adversely, and coal would feel the economic effect immediately.

